

Senate Bill 45

By: Senators Thomas of the 54th, Unterman of the 45th, Mullis of the 53rd, Harbison of the 15th, Tate of the 38th and others

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Chapter 2 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Department of Human Resources, so as to provide for the establishment of a task force to develop a plan for education on chronic kidney disease; to provide for membership and appointment of members to the task force; to provide for duties and responsibilities; to provide for reports and recommendations from such task force; to provide for related matters; to provide for automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 2 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Department of Human Resources, is amended by adding a new Code section as follows:

"31-2-10.

(a) There is created within the Division of Public Health of the Department of Human Resources the Chronic Kidney Disease Task Force. The task force shall be composed of 23 members appointed as provided in this Code section who shall serve without compensation except for actual expenses incurred for travel on the official business of the task force. Vacancies in the task force shall be filled by appointment in the manner of the original appointment.

(b) The commissioner of human resources, or his or her designee, shall be one member of the task force and shall serve as the chairperson. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members. The President of the Senate shall appoint two members. The director of the Division of Public Health of the Department of Human Resources shall appoint two members. The commissioner of community health shall appoint two members. The Governor shall appoint an additional 14 members of the task force as follows:

(1) Two Georgia nephrologists;

(2) A citizen of Georgia who has been diagnosed with chronic kidney disease;

(3) A person who works for one of the major voluntary health organizations in Georgia which seeks to prevent kidney disease;

(4) A representative from the Georgia Association of Kidney Patients, Inc.;

(5) A representative from each of the four medical schools in Georgia;

(6) A registered nurse who specializes in nephrology;

(7) A licensed social worker who specializes in nephrology;

(8) A renal nutritionist who is a licensed dietitian;

(9) A dialysis technician; and

(10) A nephrology technician who represents clinical laboratories.

(c) The chairperson shall convene the first meeting of the task force before July 31, 2007.

(d) The task force shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

(1) To develop a plan to educate the public and health care professionals about the advantages and methods of early screening, diagnosis, and treatment of chronic kidney disease and its complications based on the Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative Clinical Practice Guidelines or other medically recognized clinical practice guidelines;

(2) To develop a plan to educate health care professionals about early kidney replacement therapy education for patients, including in-center dialysis, home hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and vascular access options and transplantation, prior to the onset of kidney failure;

(3) To make recommendations on the implementation of a cost-effective plan for early screening, diagnosis, and treatment of chronic kidney disease and its complications for the State's population;

(4) To make recommendations on the implementation of a disease management program specific for chronic kidney disease and end state renal disease;

(5) To provide a report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, the Governor, and the chairpersons of the Senate and House of Representatives Health and Human Services Committees no later than December 31, 2007; and

(6) To perform such other activities as the task force finds necessary or convenient in order to accomplish its purposes under this Code section.

(e) The Department of Human Resources shall provide to the task force necessary staff, research, and meeting facilities.

(f) The task force shall complete its work no later than December 31, 2007, and shall stand abolished on January 1, 2008. This Code section shall be repealed by operation of law on January 1, 2008."

SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.